

TAILORING AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment has been pointed out as an indispensable condition to reduce poverty in developing countries of the world. Also, it has been closely related to democratization of those countries, in providing women with rights and opportunities equal to those which men have enjoyed so far. Despite its significance, the issue cannot be said to be solved easily, because there are many factors that prevent its progress. Nevertheless, due to gender discrimination, women tend to be granted an inferior status in nearly every aspect of life. The discrimination that they face is greater and more in developing countries than in developed countries. In this regard, this paper aims to study about the Women Empowerment on Tailoring, especially for economic development. For this purpose, the study deals with empowerment of rural women through self-income generating activity. The study was conducted in Naduvaikuruchi village of Puthiamputhur Panchayat of Thoothukudi District, Tamilnadu.

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INTRODUCTION

Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown Disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and at other times merely as slave. Women have the potential to change their own economic status, as well as that of the communities and countries in which they live. Yet more often than not, women's economic contributions go unrecognized, their work undervalued and their promise unnourished. Unequal opportunities between women and men continue to

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hamper women's ability to lift them from poverty and gain more options to improve their lives.

Research shows that inequalities persist in the way paid and unpaid work is divided between women and men; in the fact that women remain the sole caregivers at home, and in their limited access to resources. What's more, these imbalances slow economic growth. Women's economic empowerment – that is, their capacity to bring about economic change for themselves – is increasingly viewed as the most important contributing factor to achieving equality between women and men. But economically strengthening women – who are half the world's workforce – is not only a means by which to spur economic growth, but also a matter of advancing women's human rights. When governments, businesses and communities invest in women, and when they work to eliminate inequalities, developing countries are less likely to be plagued by poverty.

1.1 Women in Tailoring

Tailoring is an unorganized sector, plenty of people involved in tailoring. There are many different kinds of process involved in tailoring. In this sector the work participation of women were found more. Particularly the people from rural area were engaged themselves in tailoring. Naduvaikuruchi village of Puthiamputhur is a separate panchayat. It is located at Ootapidaram Taluk in Thoothukudi district. The Puthiamputhur is called as Kutty Japan, Thennagathin Tirupur and Readymade City. It second largest place in production of dresses in Tamilnadu. First place is for Thirupur. Now in this sector, plenty of women involves in tailoring in puthiamputhur.

PROBLEM AND METHOD

In order to analyse the Empowerment of Women through Tailoring in Naduvaikuruchi village of Puthiamputhur Panchayat of Thoothukudi District, Tamilnadu. This study was carried out in Naduvaikuruchi village of Puthiamputhur panchayat of Thoothukudi District, Tamilnadu. The total population of this village is 518. Majority of them are involved in Tailoring. For the sake of feasibility, the researcher has decided to select 10% of the population. Simple random sampling technique has been adopted to select the sample respondents. A well structured interview schedule was used to elicit data with regard to problem.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table – 1: *Characteristics of the Respondents*

(N=50)

Variables	Groups	No.of Respondents	Percentage %
Age Group	16 to 21	13	26
	22 to 27 years	25	50
	Above 28 years	12	24
Caste	BC	35	70
	MBC	10	20
	SC	5	10

Education	Illiterates	19	38
	Primary	25	50
	Secondary	6	12
Marital Status	Married	36	72
	Unmarried	14	28
Housing Status	Own	39	78
	Rented	11	22
Occupation in Tailoring	Stitching	25	50
	Embroidery	15	30
	Other Works in Tailoring	10	20
Income (per Week)	Below ₹1000	19	38
	₹1001 to ₹1300	26	52
	Above ₹1301	5	10

The Table 1 shows that the Socio – Economic Characteristics of the Respondents. Socio – Economic Characteristics such as Age, Caste, Education, Marital status, Housing Status, Occupation, Income.

The above table reveals that all the 50 respondents are women. In Age wise, the majority 50 per cent of them belongs to 22 to 27 years age category. 26 per cent of the respondents were belongs to 16 to 21 years age category. 24 per cent of them were above 28 years age category.

Regarding the educational level of the respondents, Majority of them 50 per cent had their primary education. 38 per cent of them were illiterates. 12 per cent of them had their secondary education.

In the Community Level, the majority 70 per cent of them were belongs to BC, followed by MBC with 20 per cent and finally 10 per cent of them were belongs to SC. In the Marital Status, Majority 72 per cent of them are married, and 28 per cent of them were Unmarried.

Regarding the Housing Status of the respondents, the majority 78 per cent of the respondent were living in their own house. 22 per cent of the respondents were living in rented house.

With respect to the Occupational Status, Tailoring has various processes. 50 per cent of the respondents were doing Stitching. 30 per cent of them were working in Embroidery section. Finally 20 per cent of them were doing other works in tailoring.

Finally, the wages were paid on piece rate only. So that they can get wages according to their capacity. So there is difference in the income level. The wages were paid weekly. Half of the respondents (52 per cent) of the respondents were earning ₹1001 to ₹1300, Followed by 38 per cent of the respondents were earning below ₹1000. Finally 10.42 per cent of them were earning above ₹1301 per week.

Table – 2: Distribution of Respondents by Total Years of Work in Tailoring

Sl. No.	Total Years of Work	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Up to 2 years	15	30
2	2 to 3 years	19	38
3	Above 3 years	16	32
Total		50	100

The above table shows the work experience of the respondents. The majority (38 per cent) of the respondents were involved in tailoring for 2 to 3 years. 30 per cent of them involved in tailoring for two years. 32 per cent of them were involved in tailoring process for more than 3 years.

Table – 3: Distribution of Respondents by Working Time

Sl. No.	Working Time	Frequency	Percentage %
1	8 Hrs	16	32
2	10 Hrs	19	38
3	More than 10 Hrs	15	30
Total		50	100

The above table shows the working Time of the respondents. In this sector, the wages were paid on the basis of piece rate. So there are no restrictions on working time. The owners never force the workers to work for more time. 32 per cent of the respondents were working 8 Hours per day. 38 per cent of the respondents were working 10 hours per day. 32 per cent of the respondents were working more than 10 Hours.

Table – 4: Distribution of Respondents by Annual Income

Sl. No.	Income Group (in ₹)	Frequency	Percentage %
1	₹35,001 to ₹40,000	12	24
2	₹40,001 to ₹45,000	29	58
3	Above ₹45,001	9	18
Total		50	100

Annual income is one of the important economic factors in the family. In tailoring also many women contributed to financial assistance to their family. 58 per cent of the respondents had earned ₹40,001 to ₹45,000 per year. 24 per cent of the respondents had earned ₹35,001 to ₹40,000 per year. Finally 18 per cent of the respondents had earned above ₹45,001 per year.

Table – 5: Distribution of Respondents by Savings

Sl. No.	Savings	Having	Not Having
1	Bank	11 (22%)	39 (78%)
2	Post Office	14 (28%)	36 (72%)
3	Chit funds	27 (54%)	23 (46%)
4	Personal funds	21 (42%)	29 (58%)

Savings plays an important role in meeting the needs of family. Similarly here also the respondents have their savings on Bank, Post Office, Chit funds, and personal funds. 22 per cent of the respondents were having savings in Bank. 28 per cent of them having saving in Post office. (54 per cent) of them were having saving in chit funds. 42 per cent of them were having saving in personal funds.

Table – 6: *Distribution of Respondents by Contribution of Income to Standard of Living*

Sl. No.	Contribution of Income	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Children Education	8	16
2	Repayment of Loans	17	34
3	Marriage	12	24
4	Daily Expenditure	13	26
Total		50	100

The above data clearly shows that the respondents are properly utilizing their income that contributes to their standard of living. The majority of the respondents (34 per cent) utilizing their income for Repayment of Loans. Majority of them were involved in SHG, there they get loan for their needs and then they are repaying it. 24 per cent of the respondents were utilizing their income for their marriage. 26 per cent of them utilizing their money for daily house expenses. Finally 16 per cent of the respondents were utilizing their income for their children education.

CONCLUSION

Empowerment refers to the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. The empowerment of rural women is about expanding women's assets and capabilities to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable the institutions that affect their lives. The Socio-Economic Empowerment of women is also reflected in the development programme of the country. There is an emerging need to improve women status which should start with economic empowerment. Empowerment is a concept that is of equal importance to both men and women. It is idea of sharing power, of truly giving it way. Empowerment is the process through which individual gain efficiency, defined as the degree to which an individual perceives that they control their environment.

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